

### 3.09 GIDEON AND THE 300 MEN

#### JUDGES 7

The Israelites had prayed to God to rescue them from the cruel Midianite people. God had allowed the Midianites to rule over them because of the Israelites' disobedience to Him. When they called out to God for help, He chose a man named Gideon to rescue them. Even though the Israelites had been disobedient to God, He still loved them. They were still His people.

Gideon asked God for a sign. He wanted God to prove it was really Him asking Gideon to rescue the Israelites. God had given Gideon the sign he had asked for. Now Gideon was ready for the battle.

Gideon took with him 32,000 men to fight the battle with the Midianites. God said to Gideon, "You have too many soldiers in your army. If the battle against the Midianites is won, the Israelites will say they won because of their own strength. I want you to tell your men that whoever is afraid of fighting this battle to go home." When Gideon told his men to leave if they were afraid, there were 22,000 soldiers who left the army and went home. Only 10,000 men remained to fight. God had more instructions for Gideon's men. The Lord told Gideon, "Bring your men down to the water. I have a test for them."

Gideon brought his men to the water nearby. God said, "Tell the men to drink from the water." God told Gideon, "The men who lap water from their hands, as a dog would lap water, put them in one group. The men who get down on their knees and drink water directly from the stream, put them in another group." Three hundred men lapped water from their hands like a dog would lap water. All the rest drank from the stream on their knees.

God said to Gideon, "I will use these 300 hundred men who lapped water to save you and the Israelites. You will win the battle against the Midianites. All the rest of the men may go home."

Gideon took all the trumpets and all the food and necessities from the men who were going home and gave them to his remaining three hundred men. God said, "Go down to the camp of the Midianites." Gideon told his men, "The Lord has given the Midianites into our hands!"

Gideon divided his men into three groups. He gave each of them trumpets and jars with torches in them. "Watch me and do as I do. When I, and all who are with me, blow our trumpets, then you come from all around and blow your trumpets and shout, 'For the Lord and for Gideon!'"

Gideon and the hundred men with him got close to the Midianite camp. They blew their trumpets and broke their jars, grabbed the torches and shouted, "For the Lord and for Gideon!" When all the three hundred men broke their jars, grabbed their torches and blew their trumpets, the Midianites were so surprised and frightened by all the loud noise that they became confused and began fighting with each other. Gideon's army was able to capture the leaders and win the battle.

Gideon listened to God and obeyed Him. God led Gideon's army to win the battle and save the Israelite people. During Gideon's lifetime, Israel had peace for forty years.

When we listen and obey God, He will help us overcome challenging circumstances like Gideon!

### 3.09 GIDEON AND THE 300 MEN - TEACHER'S GUIDE

#### JUDGES 7

##### HIGHLIGHTS:

- 1) The Israelites cried to God for help when they were being treated cruelly by the Midianites. God chose Gideon to rescue them.
- 2) There were 32,000 men in Gideon's army. God said there were too many. The Israelites would say it was by their own strength they won the battle rather than by God's strength.
- 3) God first asked Gideon to tell those men who were afraid to fight to go home.
- 4) Next God told Gideon to have his men drink from a stream. The ones who lapped water from their hands like a dog would drink, would be the ones to stay with the army. Three hundred men drank water like this. They stayed to fight.
- 5) Gideon had his men run toward the Midianite camp, blowing their trumpets and breaking jars and shouting, "For the Lord and for Gideon!" The Midianites were so surprised and frightened by the loud noise, they jumped up and began fighting each other.
- 6) Gideon and the 300 men captured the Midianite leaders and won the battle.

##### QUESTIONS:

- 1) Who was treating the Israelites cruelly?
- 2) Who did God choose to rescue the Israelites?
- 3) How many men were in Gideon's army at the beginning?
- 4) Why did God think there were too many men in the army?
- 5) After God chose ways to send many soldiers home, how many men were left to fight?
- 6) How did Gideon's army win the battle?

##### ANSWERS:

- 1) The Midianites were treating the Israelites cruelly.
- 2) God chose Gideon to rescue the Israelites.
- 3) There were 32,000 men in Gideon's army at the beginning.
- 4) God knew the Israelites would say they won the battle by their own strength.
- 5) After God chose ways to send many soldiers home, there were 300 men left to fight.
- 6) Gideon had his men blow trumpets, break jars and shout, "For the Lord and for Gideon!" at the Midianites. The Midianites were so frightened, they began to fight each other.